GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5725
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
PRODUCTION OF WHEAT AND PADDY
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excess production of wheat and paddy has resulted in the problem of storage in the country;

(b) if so, the scheme of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether this excess production has caused loss to the farmers instead of giving benefits;

(d) if so, whether the Government consider change in or breaking of crop cycle responsible for this;

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the reasons for loss to the farmers even after excess of production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): The storage problem can not be ascribed to a single reason like the excess production of wheat and rice. Even though huge procurement operations have been undertaken by Food Corporation of India (FCI), the storage problem has been effectively managed during the Rabi 2000-2001 season.

(b): For the next Kharif season, the Government has advised FCI as well as the State Governments to create additional storage capacities. FCI`s target is to construct additional storage capacity of 1.29 lakh MT during 2001-02. During this period, the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) will be constructing 2.00 lakh MT of storage capacity. Further, steps have been taken to create additional capacity of 64.00 lakh MT on long-term basis through the State Governments, State Warehousing Corporation (SWCs), CWC, etc.

(c)to(f): The Government has taken several steps to protect the interests of farmers and these include fixation of minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities and procurement operations thereof, implementation of Market intervention Scheme, etc.